

Somebody like Renee, from Van Wert County—I know Van Wert County. I spent a lot of time there. I know about the shutdown of this plant that went to Mexico. There are 300 people who lost their jobs. It is not as if they don't want to work. They were working hard, showing up for work every day. They were productive workers. They did what was asked of them. They were taxpayers, were involved in Little League, involved in their community. Those 300 workers can't find work. It is not a question that there is a job out there for them; they were looking for work. That is why it is so important, as they look for work, for them to get some help from their government. This is not welfare, extending unemployment insurance. It is called insurance, unemployment insurance, because they pay into it. They ought to get some help from that unemployment fund.

It is clear from this mail that people want this legislation to pass. They know our health care bill will allow people who are happy with their insurance to stay in the insurance they have but will build consumer protections around those policies—no more pre-existing conditions, for instance, to deny care.

Second, this bill helps small business provide insurance as most small businesspeople do. They want to provide insurance for their employees.

Third, this bill will help those who do not have insurance. They can go into this insurance exchange and get insurance.

Fourth, this bill provides for a public option, so if they don't want to go to CIGNA or Wellpoint or United or one of the big health care companies, they can decide to sign up for the public option which will never throw them off, just as Medicare would never disqualify their coverage.

It is clear what we have to do in the next month. In my State alone, from Akron, to Ravenna, to Cleveland, to Garfield Heights, to Sylvania, to Cincinnati, 390 people in my State every day lose their insurance—390 people every single day lose their insurance. It is important that we move as quickly as we can in the next month or so.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great leader, inspiring public servant and American icon, Senator Edward Moore Kennedy.

I do not need to stand here and talk about what the Kennedy legacy has meant and continues to mean to this country. It is, at this point, simply a part of the fabric of our country.

I do not need to recite the résumé of Edward Kennedy or extol his many accomplishments. His life's work speaks for itself. It will stand the test of time and, no doubt, become even more remarkable when viewed in hindsight.

I do not need to reiterate each of the noble causes Senator Kennedy fought for with passion and vigor. We know that his pursuit of dignity, opportunity and respect for every man and woman will benefit generations to come, and inspire so many more to carry on in the cause.

Yes, there is no doubt that Senator Edward Kennedy will be remembered far into the future and that history will treat him well, but I want to take some time today to talk about the people here and now that he leaves behind that may be the most telling about Ted Kennedy. In those moments and for those people, we got a chance to see something very special.

For some people it was very personal moments shared between family and friends—the opportunity to know him in a way others could only hope to glimpse.

And some were his arch enemies at the podium while also his dearest, most respected partners on causes behind closed doors.

Some became believers based on passion-filled political speeches delivered from his earliest of days in the spotlight to some of his last, spectacular moments right here on the Senate floor.

While others had their lives changed because he was brave enough to stand up for them when the cameras were not rolling and the majority was not on his side.

Ted Kennedy, the lion of the Senate, would roar about the need for better health care, improved public schools, and providing help to working families. He knew how to channel the emotion, the urgency and the helplessness he saw in the eyes and heard in the voices of those he was fighting for. And he didn't just beam it from the mountain tops—he worked on the solutions to these needs day in and day out with astute skill.

There is a Ted Kennedy that will be remembered in the history books and he will be great and strong and smart and good, but there is also a unique part of Ted Kennedy that will stay with many of us in our own special ways.

A politician. A public servant. A patriot. A prince of Camelot. A fighter. A negotiator. A liberal. A brother, husband, father, and friend.

The Lion sleeps. . . •

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator Ted Kennedy.

By the time I took my seat in the Senate, Ted had already held his for

nearly four decades. He had already established himself as one of the most influential members in this body's history. He had already introduced hundreds of bills that became laws and shaped thousands of others. He had already grown from youngest son to elder statesman and become an icon for millions of Americans.

Before I was ever elected, I respected Ted Kennedy. And after becoming his colleague, my respect grew. I was privileged to serve with him on the Judiciary Committee and to be ranking member when he chaired our Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security. We worked together closely, and that experience has made me a more effective Senator.

Ted Kennedy and I often held different principles, but we shared key convictions too. We agreed that our immigration laws needed reform. We recognized that judicial philosophy mattered. We believed that providing advice and consent on appointments to the Federal bench was not merely a right of Senators but one of our most solemn responsibilities.

Ted Kennedy understood the power of language. On the Senate floor, he used words of passion, calling his colleagues to embrace grand visions with great urgency. In bill negotiations, he used words with precision, understanding better than anyone how legislative language governs, and how to codify his convictions into the law of the land.

Senator Kennedy and I shared an interest in the history of this body, and a special pride in those who held our seats before us. In my case, I have long admired Sam Houston, who liberated the people of Texas, served as one of our first Senators, and raised his voice against secession. In Ted's case, he looked to the great Daniel Webster, who also stood for union, and for liberty.

Ted was drawn in particular to this quote by Webster:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

All Americans can agree that Ted Kennedy's service in the U.S. Senate is something worthy to be remembered. Sandy and I continue to keep his wife Vickie in our prayers. And we offer our condolences to all who miss him most.

COMMENDING SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. ENSIGN. Mel Martinez came to the United States from Cuba at the age of 15 as part of a humanitarian effort called Operation Peter Pan. We are all familiar with the character of Peter Pan he is careless and does not want to grow up. He is sometimes selfish and often conceited. It is ironic because Mel is the opposite of all of those attributes.

Mel Martinez arrived on our shores with no family and only the hope for a